

January 3, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

FAX To:

202-307-1454

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing to support the settlement between the Justice Department and Microsoft that will bring an end to their long antitrust dispute.

Some groups do not think the settlement is fair, but they are wrong. The only possible way the settlement could be unfair is if it unfairly harmed Microsoft. Look at the stipulations Microsoft is willing to accept. It will disclose documentation on the internal interfaces of its Windows operating system. It will make future versions of Windows easier to work with in terms of removing Microsoft programs and adding non-Microsoft ones. It will guarantee that Windows runs as well with the new software as it did with the original Microsoft software. It will not retaliate against any of the companies that sued it. It will change its licensing practices to increase its competitors' viability in the IT market. Microsoft will even submit to constant government oversight of their business practices. How anyone outside of Microsoft's boardroom could possibly be dissatisfied with this settlement is a mystery to me.

Microsoft is willing to accept these terms. For that reason alone, I think this settlement ought to go forward. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Kirk Puffenberger
6263 Indian Field
Norcross, GA 30092